[Translation]

Setting up of a Thermal Power Project

2731. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey was conducted in the past to set up a Thermal Power Plant at Ballia in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request has been received by the Union Government from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be approved and commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) A proposal of Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) to instal 3x250 MW Thermal Power Station at Balthera Road in Distt. Ballia was received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on 8.11.1992. After examining the proposal, it was observed that various inputs/ clearances such as compliance of Sec. 29 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, coal linkage, water availability (Centre), environmental clearance (Centre & State), associated transmission clearance and civil aviation clearance were not tied-up. The water requirement for this project was proposed from river Ghagra. However, the Ministry of Water Resources had imposed restriction for drawal of water from river Ghagra during the lean period. In view of the fact that various inputs/clearances had not been tied-up, UPSEB were informed in February, 1994 that this scheme was not being pursued in CEA. Since then, no fresh proposal for this project has been received from UPSEB.

[English]

Joint Venture in Oil Sector

2732. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Qutar have set up a high-level group to examine proposals for Joint ventures/ investments in oil, gas and downstream projects in the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the members of the group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Joint Committee will identify and expedite projects of mutual interest. The Indian side will be headed by CMD, GAIL.

Oil Refinery in Orissa

2733. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to change the place of the proposed oil refinery in Orissa and also to change the pattern of collaboration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the participation of the Government, companies and foreign collaborators and when the proposed refinery is likely to commence its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation has in principle approval to set up a 6 MMTPA joint venture refinery in the East Coast. During the feasibility study, the refinery was proposed to be located at Daitari. However, exact location of the refinery will be decided based on Detailed Feasibility Report.

(c) The project is proposed to be implemented as joint venture with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), with equity participation of 26% each. The implementation of the project is expected to take approximately 46 months for mechanical completion from the date of Government approval.

Rural Sanitation Programme

2734. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the absence of sanitation facility in backward states like Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure sanitation facilities in the rural areas of these States;

(c) the details of Rural Sanitation Programme being launched in these States; and

(d) the allocation of funds to these States during the Eighth Plan under Rural Sanitation Programme, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme is under implementation to augment the efforts of the State Governments to provide sanitation facilities in the States/UTs.

(c) and (d) The information is given in the attached statement.

Statement

Allocation of Funds and Physical Progress Under CRSP to Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa During III Plan period is as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Yearwise allocation of CRSP funds				
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (upto 12/96)
Bihar	186.63	279.79	560.00	589.00	603.00
M.P.	122.85	184.16	368.00	388.00	401.00
Orissa	73.622	110.54	221.00	233.00	241.00

No. of Sanitary Latrines Constructed

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (upto 12/96)
Bihar	Nil	4322	372	Nil	172
M.P.	69	18021	36160	48352	6827
Orissa	1892	567	3142	37296	1422

Public Grievances

2735. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pensioners who retires from various departments of Government of Uttar Pradesh, have not been getting a fair deal in the matter of quick sanctioning of their pension;

(b) whether some directions were issued by Central Government in some cases have also been ignored by the authorities there;

(c) whether grievances relating to pension of those who retired from the strength of Directorate of Industries, Uttar Pradesh have been pending unresolved despite repeated appeals;

(d) whether the Government would extend some time-frame for resolving pensioners' dispute quickly to Government of Uttar Pradesh as per the extant rules; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (e) Under the provisions of the Constitution, State Pensions are the concern of the respective State Governments. some of the measures adopted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the disposal of the pension cases of their employees are as under :

(i) The State Government have delegated the powers of sanctioning pension to the Financial Controllers of various Government departments of the State.

(ii) The State Government have issued a notification as Uttar Pradesh Pension cases (Submission, Disposal and Avoidance of delay) Rules, 1995. Under this Rule, a time schedule has been fixed for the disposal of pension cases of retired/deceased Government servants. In the case of deceased employees pension papers are to be obtained after one month. Payment orders of pension/gratuity/commutation of pension will be handed over to the pensioner on the eve of his retirement.

(iii) The State Government have constituted 'Pension Adalat' for immediate disposal of pension cases and redresal of their grievances.

(c) According to the information received last year from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, a number of 33 cases of retired employees of the Department of Industries of Uttar Pradesh had been pending settlement for various reasons as per details given below :-

(i) 10 cases related to officials who retired in the past two months;

(ii) 7 cases due to pending court cases; and

(iii) Remaining 16 cases were pending because of overpayment, pending departmental proceedings, verification of services and non-receipt of completed pension papers. The concerned officers were instructed by the State Government to expedite the disposal of pending cases.